Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 IO-14 /134 W ------ 010375

R 040900Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2338

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION NATO

CONFIDENTIAL STOCKHOLM 2884

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, SW, IC

SUBJ: SWEDISH REACTION TO ICELANDIC ELECTIONS

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

- 1. OUTCOME OF ICELANDIC ELECTIONS, WHICH WERE CLOSELY FOLLOWED IN SWEDISH POLITICAL CIRCLES, WAS FAVORABLY RECEIVED BY SWEDISH PRESS, WHICH SAW JOHANNESSON GOVERNMENT'S DEFEAT AS INSURING CONTINUATION OF KEFLAVIK BASE.
- 2. SVENSKA DAGBLADET (MODERATE) COMMENTS: "THE OUTCOME OF THE ELECTION IS LIKELY TO MEAN THAT THE KEFLAVIK BASE WILL BE MAINTAINED... WITH THE BASE STILL IN OPERATION, MILITARY AND POLITICAL STABILITY IN THE NORDIC AREA IS ENHANCED." NOTING RECENT SOVIET NAVAL BUILDUP ON THE KOLA PENINSULA, PAPER POINTS OUT THAT "THE IMPORTANCE OF KEFLAVIK AS AN OBSERVATION POST HAS INCREASED," AND CONCLUDES THAT HAD THE BASE CLOSED, IT WOULD HAVE "AMOUNTED TO A GAIN FOR THE EXTREME LEFT IN ALL OF THE NORDIC COUNTRIES."

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3. INDEPENDENT DAGANS NYHETER, PERENNIAL CRITIC OF US, OBSERVES THAT THE KEFLAVIK BASE QUESTION "HAS LOST SOMETHING OF ITS EXPLOSIVENESS AFTER THE COMPROMISE ON THE AMERICAN PRESENCE WHICH HAD BEEN WORKED OUT BY THE PROGRESSIVE PARTY." LIBERAL UPSALA NYA TIDNING, NOTING THAT THE ELECTION OUTCOME SUPPORTS THE PRO-BASE FORCES, STRESSES THAT THE QUESTION OF THE BASE RETENTION WAS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTORS IN THE CONSERVATIVE GAINS. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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COMMENT: GENERALLY FAVORABLE PRESS REACTION TO DEFEAT OF JOHANNESSON GOVERNMENT REFLECTS OPINION PREVALENT IN SWEDISH POLITICAL AND MILITARY CIRCLES THAT RETENTION OF IDF IS IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN WORLD MILITARY BALANCE.PRIME MINISTER PALME IN PAST HAS STRESSED TO ICELANDIC LEADERS NEED FOR CONTINUATION OF US BASE IN ICELAND, REFLECTING GOS CONCERN OVER SOVIET NAVAL BUILDUP ON NORTHERN FLANK (REYKJAVIK 1299). STRAUSZ-HUPE

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Message Attributes

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Subject: SWEDISH REACTION TO ICELANDIC ELECTIONS BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

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